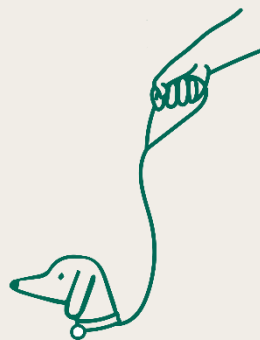




YKC AV STAKES



RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)



A: HANDLERS

1. The following seven classes will be open for members to compete in:

AV Gundog	AV Terrier	AV Hound	AV Utility	AV Toy	AV Working	AV Pastoral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06-24 Years

2. Only current YKC members may compete YKC Classes.
3. No substitute handlers are permitted
 - i. The dog must be handled by the same person who entered the qualifier.
 - ii. If a member is competing with two or more separate dogs in the same competition, another YKC member may hold the dog, but may not show the dog other than to complete group exercises that would be impossible with one handler.

B: DOGS

1. Standard Kennel Club rules regarding which dogs may enter this stakes breed class apply.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC stakes competition.
3. All pedigree dogs are eligible to take part provided the dog is registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register.
4. Docked dogs are not eligible to compete in YKC Classes.
5. The dog must be registered;
 - i. Solely or jointly in the member's name or
 - a. In the name of a member of the family (i.e. a group of people related by blood or marriage)
 - b. Under these circumstances the dog must be resident at the YKC member's address
6. In certain cases, members may be permitted, through permission from the YKC Office, to show a dog that is not registered in their name, the family name or registered at their address and must write into the YKC office, stating their reasons, for permission to show.
 - i. This must be approved by the YKC Office before entering ANY qualifier and not after the member has qualified at a show.
 - ii. Permission to show will be for the competing year of the request. Separate permission must be gained for subsequent year.



YKC STAKES QUALIFIERS

1. **By entering a YKC qualifier, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. The qualification period for **Crufts 2027** is: **01-Nov-2025 till 31-Oct-2026**
3. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YKC AV Stakes classes will be subject to all in-force Kennel Club regulations for breed competitions. Including, but not limited to:
 - i. (F) Show Regulations
 - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Kennel Club
4. When entering a YKC stakes class, you must only enter the stakes class your dog is eligible for
 - i. For example, a bloodhound is a member of the hound group and is therefore only eligible to enter "YKC AV Hound Stakes"
5. YKC Stakes classes will be judged in line with normal breed judging by comparing the exhibit to the breed standard.
 - i. The winner will be the dog who the judge deems closest to its respective breed standard.
6. Prize cards and rosettes will be awarded as part of the competition.
7. Members may enter YKC stakes classes with a dog they have already qualified.
 - i. Members may NOT enter any YKC Stakes classes with a dog already qualified by another YKC member this qualification period.
8. YKC AV Stakes qualifiers are listed on the YKC website
 - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YKC qualifier.
9. YKC members entering an AV Stakes Competition must, at the point of entry, also enter their Name and YKC membership number.
10. Unlike a standard breed class, YKC AV Stakes exhibits must be handled by the YKC member as recorded at the point of entry.
 - i. No Swapping of dogs or handlers is permitted after the close of entries.
 - ii. If a YKC member has entered more than one dog the same YKC Stakes class, that YKC member must source additional YKC member(s) in order to hold their additional dog(s) (1 handler per dog).
 - a. Any pattern work must be completed by the YKC member who is listed on the entry
 - b. Any group exercises may be completed by the additional YKC member e.g.
 - (1) Entering the ring
 - (2) Leaving the ring
 - (3) Group lap of the ring as directed by the judge
 - (4) Stacking/standing the dog during a line up



YKC STAKES - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINAL?

1. **First & Second place** at any YKC AV Stakes qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final
2. The YKC reserves the right to amend this qualification method if we are vastly oversubscribed for the final at Crufts **OR** if not enough spaces were filled.
 - i. The YKC will only amend qualification criteria in exceptional circumstances.
3. Once qualified, the handler and dog combination is locked in for this year's qualifying season.
 - i. The qualified dog may only be handled at Crufts by the same handler that it qualified with.
4. The YKC will invite all those who have qualified to enter Crufts via email before Christmas.



E: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR YKC STAKES?

1. There is no limit on how many dogs a single YKC member may qualify.
 - i. If a YKC member manages to qualify multiple dogs in the same AV Stakes class at Crufts, that YKC member is responsible for recruiting additional YKC members to assist with holding their dog during the class.

F: YKC STAKES AT CRUFTS – GROUP FINALS

1. **By entering a YKC class, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct.**
2. The finals for the each of the AV Group Stakes are held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
3. Each AV group will be held on the appropriate day at Crufts (i.e. AV Gundog stakes will be held on Gundog Day at Crufts)
4. The winner of each of the AV classes at Crufts will count towards qualification for Crufts 2027.
 - i. This is providing that the eligible YKC members are still YKC members at that Crufts
 - a. i.e. still paying members and have not turned 25.

G: CLOTHING @ CRUFTS

1. Handlers in YKC Stakes should wear a similar style of suit to what would be typically seen in the breed ring. These suits should be smart while allowing the handler to perform the full range of motions required.
2. Boys should be in either a trousered or kilted suit with jacket.
3. Girls should be in either a trousered or skirted suit.
4. Should the handler either wear a kilt or skirt, these should be of appropriate length to allow the handler to perform the full range of motion required to show their dog without accidentally exposing themselves (take extra consideration for how your clothes will sit while stacking and presenting your dog).
5. Handlers should pick outfits that do not distract the judge from their view of the dog (e.g. don't pick trousers that are the same colour as your dog as then the judge cannot clearly see the topline of the dog etc.).
6. Handlers should wear smart comfortable shoes that allow them to move at the correct pace for their dog over artificial grass. High heels and trainers are not appropriate.

H: YKC STAKES GROUP FINALS – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the YKC Handling Finals:

AV Gundog	AV Terrier	AV Hound	AV Utility	AV Toy	AV Working	AV Pastoral
• 1 st -5 th	• 1 st -5 th	• 1 st -5 th	• 1 st -5 th	• 1 st -5 th	• 1 st -5 th	• 1 st -5 th



YKC AV STAKES



YKC STAKES AT CRUFTS – GRAND FINAL

1. The winners of each of the YKC AV Group Stakes finals at Crufts will be invited to participate in the YKC Stakes Grand Final held in the Main Arena at Crufts on Sunday, just before “Best in Show”.
2. Dogs will enter the main arena in the order that the class was judged i.e.:
 - i. The first dog to enter the arena will be the AV Stakes class that was scheduled first on Thursday
 - ii. ...
 - iii. The last dog to enter the arena will be the AV Stakes class that was scheduled last on Sunday

YKC STAKES GRAND FINAL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following two awards will be presented in the Main Arena for the YKC Stakes Grand Final:

YKC Stakes	YKC Stakes
Overall Winner	Reserve

2. All YKC competitors in the YKC Stakes Grand Final will receive a YKC Stakes Grand Finalist Rosette.